



Alan I. Leshner
Chief Executive Officer and
Executive Publisher, *Science*

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Richard M. Thomas
Associate General Counsel
Office of Government Ethics
Suite 500
1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005-3917

Email Submission: usoge@oge.gov

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) writes in support of the proposed rule published by the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) in the Federal Register (5 CFR Part 2640) that addresses "Government Employees Serving in Official Capacity in Nonprofit Organizations."

We appreciate the work of OGE and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to establish policies that promote and facilitate the professional development of government scientists and engineers as detailed in the 2010 Scientific Integrity Guidelines and the OGE proposed rule.

In particular, we fully support OGE's proposed changes that fulfill OSTP's directive to "[a]llow full participation in professional or scholarly societies, committees, task forces and other specialized bodies of professional societies, including removing barriers for serving as officers or on governing boards of such societies."

Nearly 20 years ago, the AAAS Board of Directors issued a statement on the importance of allowing federal scientists to participate actively in the leadership of non-profit professional societies, emphasizing that such association "is of significant value to federal employees in terms of personal and professional development and to the federal government in terms of education and training of staff."
(http://archives.aaas.org/docs/resolutions.php?doc_id=387).

AAAS is the world's largest multi-disciplinary scientific society and the publisher of the prestigious peer-reviewed journal *Science*. AAAS fulfills its mission to "advance science and serve society" through initiatives that include science policy, international programs, science education, and public understanding of science. We stand ready to work with the Office of Government Ethics in addressing this important subject. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Alan I. Leshner